This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 18, 2005. Claims 1 to 36 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 13, 23, 33 and 35 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,937 (Accad) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,710 (Smith). Claims 33 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Accad and Smith, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,715 (Sawano). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print control apparatus which can communicate with a host computer and an image output apparatus. The apparatus includes: obtaining means for obtaining system information concerning a memory provided in said host computer, from the host computer; data generating means for generating second data which can be outputted from the image output apparatus from first data which is inputted from the host computer; first data compressing means for generating third data by performing a data compression based on a first compression format to the second data; second data compressing means for generating fourth data by performing a data compression based on a second compression format different from the first compression format to the second data. The apparatus further includes first output means for analyzing the system information which is obtained by the obtaining means and outputting the third or fourth data to the host computer; first data decompressing means for generating fifth data by performing a data decompression

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corresponding to the first compression format to the third data which is inputted from the host computer; second data decompressing means for generating sixth data by performing a data decompression corresponding to the second compression format to the fourth data which is inputted from the host computer; and second output means for outputting the fifth or sixth data to the image output apparatus.

Roughly, the invention as recited in the independent claims (including the amended independent claims) aims to generate image data without deterioration even if the size of the image data is greater than a memory of host system that will contain the image data. To do so, the invention obtains system information concerning a memory provided in the host computer, from the host computer. The invention further includes analyzing the system information to determine appropriate compression processes to use before outputting the compressed image data to the host computer.

However, Accad merely discloses a compression method used on a raster page. In Accad, patches of connected pixels of the same color are identified. Patches of at least a predetermined sized, typically corresponding to text or line art objects, are subjected to a lossless compression. Patches below the predetermined size, typically corresponding to image or photo objects, are substantially subjected to a lossy compression. In FIG. 3, Accad discloses a PDL interpreter 30, and a generalized page memory 200 that form part of a printer controller that operates with a print engine 70. In FIG. 5, Accad discloses an adaptive compression ratio controller 170 operating in cooperation with a second compressor 160 and the compressed page buffer 200. These components, including the memory, are shown as part of a printer controller and not as part of a host computer in communication with a print control apparatus. Therefore, Accad cannot disclose the print

control apparatus as including a means for obtaining system information concerning a memory provided in said host computer, from said host computer and a first output means for analyzing said system information which is obtained by said obtaining means.

Similarly, Smith discloses in FIG. 5, a printer having a compressed raster print data memory 6. However, nowhere is Smith seen to disclose that the memory could be located in a host computer in communication with a print control apparatus. Therefore, Smith is entirely silent in regard to a means for obtaining system information concerning a memory provided in said host computer, from said host computer and a first output means for analyzing said system information which is obtained by said obtaining means.

Additionally, Sawano discloses a dot matrix printer a control unit connected to a memory for storing control programs to control the printer functions and a memory device including a ROM for storing bit map data of characters and patterns as defaults and a work RAM. As in both Accad and Smith, Sawano there is no suggestion or disclosure that the memory could be located in a host computer in communication with a print control apparatus. Therefore, Smith is entirely silent in regard to a means for obtaining system information concerning a memory provided in said host computer, from said host computer and a first output means for analyzing said system information which is obtained by said obtaining means.

As Accad, Smith and Sawano only disclose printers having local memories used for storing compressed image data, it cannot be said that they disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, a means for obtaining system information concerning a memory provided in said host computer, from said host computer and a first output means for analyzing said system information which is obtained by said obtaining means. In light

of this deficiency of Accad, Smith and Sawano, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 33 and 35 are directed to systems that include substantially the same features as the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly Applicant submits that the discussion from above in regard to Claim 1 apply equally to Claims 33 and 35. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 33 and 35 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.
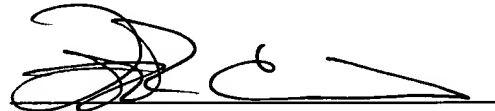
Amended independent Claims 13 and 23 are directed to a method and computer-readable memory medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 13 and 23 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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